



Blastoids (Ordovician – Permian)
Phylum Echinodermata; Class Blastoidea

Blastoids are an *extinct* group of marine invertebrates which includes starfish and sea urchins. Instead of being flower-like as the crinoid class; blastoids are bud-like (see diagram below). Blastoids were diverse and abundant throughout North America during the Mississippian however, they became rare during the Pennsylvanian. In fact, the only record of blastoids in the Pennsylvanian in North America occurs in Early Pennsylvanian rocks in eastern Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas (Katz and Sprinkle, 1977). Blastoids are present in the Mississippian Pitkin Limestone and in the Pennsylvanian Brentwood Limestone in the Ozark Plateaus Region. These Blastoids were part of a shallow marine offshore community that thrived in the clear normal marine water during this time (Katz and Sprinkle).



Top and side view of blastoid (*Pentremites*) from the Brentwood Limestone.



Blastoids from the Brentwood Limestone, northwest Arkansas.

*Top pictures from Fossils of Arkansas by Tom Freeman, 1965.

References:

Freeman, Tom, 1966, Fossils of Arkansas: Arkansas Geological Commission Bulletin 22, 53 p., 12 pls., 15 figs., 1 map.

Katz, Steven G., and Sprinkle, James, 1977, Morrowan (Lower Pennsylvanian) *Pentremites* in Oklahoma and Arkansas; Oklahoma Geological Survey Guidebook 18, p. 161-168.